

for over thirty years, I am always proud to celebrate what I still consider the best profession in the world.

Today we are here to commend a very special type of nurse, those that specialize in home health care. For more than 100 years, Visiting Nurse Associations (VNAs) have been providing home health care to the communities they serve. Beginning in the late 1800s, VNAs provided critical home-based care for the homebound, the impoverished, the frail elderly and children at-risk.

Over a hundred years later, not-for-profit VNAs continue their unparalleled, selfless tradition of offering quality of life and independence to all Americans through comprehensive home health care. Today, guided by their charitable missions, VNAs care for nearly 10 million people annually.

VNAs provide home health care for patients of all ages—from infants to elderly. They are the educators of disease prevention and health promotion. Physicians are confident when referring to VNAs because of their high level of quality standards and clinical excellence. Patients are extremely satisfied with the care they receive from VNAs as shown by a 99 percent customer satisfaction rating.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to show their support for Visiting Nurse Associations everywhere by voting for this wonderful resolution.

NATIONAL PEACE CORPS DAY

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2003

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Peace Corps Day, and in support of our nation's enduring commitment to progress, opportunity, and expanded development at the grassroots level throughout the developing world.

Since 1961, more than 168,000 Americans—including over 5,000 Minnesotans—responded to our nation's call to serve by becoming Peace Corps Volunteers in 136 countries. Today, more than 7,000 Americans currently serve in the Peace Corps, providing valuable assistance to developing countries, contributing their skills to support programs in education, health, business, agriculture and the environment.

Peace Corps volunteers have improved the lives of communities throughout the world by responding to real global crises such as poverty, hunger and HIV/AIDS. They have strengthened the ties of friendship and understanding between the people of the United States and those of other countries, and have brought back to the U.S. a deeper understanding of other cultures and nations.

National Peace Corps Day recognizes the work of returned Peace Corps Volunteers as they bring their experiences to work, school, places of worship and recreation, sharing with colleagues, friends, and community members how their volunteer service changed and shaped their lives. Today, across the nation, we honor the spirit of these Volunteers and reaffirm our country's commitment to helping people help themselves throughout the world.

In this spirit, and in honor of National Peace Corps Day, I have introduced House Concur-

rent Resolution 61, expressing the need to increase funding for the Peace Corps by \$550 million by 2007. This legislation reflects the President's commitment to double the number of Peace Corps Volunteers over the next four years, and recognizes the unprecedented funding challenges the Peace Corps will face as the President's initiative to expand the program moves forward.

As we gather today to honor the tremendous achievements of our Peace Corps Volunteers from the past, let us not forget the thousands that serve today, including the twenty-four volunteers from my Congressional District in Minnesota serving in such locations as Honduras, Bulgaria, Kazakhstan and the Philippines. Now, more than ever, it is clear that the cross-cultural understanding developed through Peace Corps programs is invaluable to our nation.

HOUSING GROUPS OPPOSE ADMINISTRATION SECTION 8 PROPOSAL

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2003

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, one of the areas where national policy is weakest is that of affordable housing. The very prosperity of the nineties that so benefited most Americans in fact exacerbated the housing crisis for many, because of the unevenness of the housing market and of that prosperity. Sadly, recent proposals from this administration not only do nothing to alleviate these areas of housing crisis, they would worsen them. One of the areas where the administration's proposals would worsen an already bad situation is that of Section 8 Housing, the main program by which we help people rent housing when they cannot afford decent homes on their own. Not only has the program been insufficiently funded recently, the administration's new budget proposal seeks to make this a block grant, removing any federal protections for those in need, and subjecting them to the already strong pressures that many state budgets face. A coalition of some of the most important groups in the housing field, including many of those business organizations that seek to help us meet the need for affordable housing, recently wrote to Secretary Martinez expressing their strong opposition to this proposal. Their letter lists several reasons why this program would be harmful to our major current effort to help low income people meet their housing needs, and given the expertise and commitment of those who have signed the letter, as well as their reasoning, I ask that it be printed here so that the members may benefit from their very sound judgment.

FEBRUARY 25, 2003.

Hon. MEL MARTINEZ,
Dept. of Housing & Urban Development,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SECRETARY MARTINEZ: The undersigned groups are writing to express our concern regarding HUD's FY04 Budget proposal to block grant the Housing Choice Voucher program.

The voucher program, created under the Nixon Administration, has become the cornerstone of federal affordable housing policy and has broad support among many constituencies.

In recent years, an increased number of conventional apartment owners have begun participating in the voucher program. While the program is not perfect, professional apartment owners in partnership with the current voucher administrators have made great strides in helping low-income families find quality affordable rental housing—a partnership that helps the community as a whole.

Apartment owners and managers look to uniformity and consistency of program rules and funding levels when deciding to participate as voucher landlords. HUD's proposal creates uncertainty in this regard, the result of which will have a chilling impact upon market participation in the program.

In addition, multifamily property owners often operate in multiple States. If each State creates its own program, it would necessitate the understanding of new rules created by up to 50 different administrators. Further, any shifting of federal funds to state block grants raises serious concerns about future funding availability, begging the question of why States would be interested in HUD's proposal.

A dramatic shift in program rules and administrators will also jeopardize the new homeownership voucher programs launched by local agencies in partnership with the real estate and lending community. This homeownership initiative holds promise for increasing opportunities for low-income families.

Devolution may have a place in any sound federal housing policy, but not in relation to the House Choice Voucher program. We stand ready to work with HUD on alternative approaches to strengthening its tenant-based assistance.

Sincerely,
Council for Affordable and Rural Housing.
Institute for Responsible Housing Preservation.

Institute of Real Estate Management.
National Apartment Association.
National Association of Realtors.
National Leased Housing Association.
National Multi House Council.

UNITING IN THE FIGHT TO END DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2003

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, on the 5th Annual National Lobby Day for The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, to join my colleagues in speaking out against domestic violence, a brutal crime committed against millions of women. Domestic violence is the single largest cause of injury to women between the ages of fifteen and forty-four, more than muggings, car accidents and rapes combined.

Mr. Speaker, women are losing their right to safety in their homes and in their communities. Women account for an alarming 85 percent of the victims of domestic violence. Each year between two to four million women are battered, and a substantial number of these battered women will die of their injuries.

Devastatingly, because one in three women are likely to be abused by a partner or someone she knows, only half of all female victims report their injuries to the proper authorities. Women remain in grave fear of their lives and do not leave their violent relationships.

Domestic violence is increasing at a disturbing rate. In my home state of Florida,

which has an increasingly expanding immigrant population, battered women claim that they are in fear of reporting their violent relationships until their immigration concerns are addressed.

These women, Mr. Speaker, are fed misinformation about United States laws and are faced with the threats of deportation by their abusers. Many of these women are overly dependent on their abusers because they face racial and language barriers. Others face cultural barriers and being a victim of domestic violence is considered taboo.

Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in encouraging and supporting all victims of domestic abuse to seek help and to report all violent and criminal acts without being ashamed to do so. We must help prevent women from being ashamed and embarrassed and encourage them to report the abuse from these monsters.

Further, I strongly encourage Congress and the Administration to support and pass legislation pertaining to health care and law enforcement in order to combat violence against women. The abuse of women is an all too common occurrence and the fight to prevent this crime must strengthen.

TRIBUTE TO SPARKMAN HIGH
SCHOOL OF HARVEST, ALABAMA

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2003

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sparkman High School from Harvest, Alabama for winning the statewide "We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution" competition. I am proud to announce that this group of bright students from my Congressional district will represent the state of Alabama in the national competition event that will be held on April 26, 2003. The Sparkman class will join more than 1,200 students from across the United States in Washington, D.C. to compete in the national finals.

The "We the People . . ." program is the most extensive educational program in the country developed specifically to educate young people about the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. These young scholars from Sparkman High School have worked diligently to reach the national finals by participating in local and statewide competitions. Through their experience, they have gained a deep knowledge and understanding of the fundamental principles and values of our constitution. I want to congratulate these students on this outstanding achievement.

The "We the People" program, administered by the Center for Civic Education, provides students with a working knowledge of our Constitution, Bill of Rights, and the principles of democratic government. The national competition is modeled after hearings in the United States Congress, giving students the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge while they evaluate different positions on relevant historical and contemporary issues. Students will give testimonies followed by a period of questioning by the judges to explore their depth of understanding and ability to apply their constitutional knowledge.

It is inspiring to see these young people advocate the fundamental ideals and principles

of our government. These are ideas that identify us as a people and bind us together as a nation. It is important for our next generation to understand these values and principles that we hold as standards in our endeavor to preserve and realize the promise of our constitutional democracy.

The class from Sparkman High School is currently conducting research and preparing for their upcoming participation in the national competition in Washington, D.C. I commend their teacher, State Representative Sue Schmitz, for teaching these young "constitutional experts," and I wish the class the best of luck at the "We the People" national finals. They represent the future leaders of our nation.

THE PRESIDENT'S STEEL INITIATIVE ONE YEAR LATER: A SUCCESS

HON. ROB BISHOP

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2003

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, one year ago today, the President made a courageous decision to impose a temporary trade remedy against dumped and subsidized steel imports that were causing serious injury to our U.S. steel industry and its workers. This action was taken under Section 201 of the Trade Act, and the international rules of the World Trade Organization Safeguards Agreement. One year later, it is clear that his steel initiative has begun to produce an important consolidation and restructuring of the U.S. steel industry that will benefit our national economic security and our domestic steel customer base long-term.

Since the President's decision, prices are recovering, steel supply is generally robust, and the industry has begun dramatic consolidation and restructuring. This recovery is important news for Nucor Steel Utah, located in my district, and for steel producers in other similar communities all across America. The result at the end of the three-year period will be top quality steel, produced in high technology mills in America, which will become an even better value for our nation's steel consumers.

The President is also addressing the root cause of the import problems, by negotiating with our trading partners to eliminate global excess capacity and foreign government subsidies. As a result, the world's steel producing nations are for the first time talking meaningfully about reducing unneeded capacity and eliminating subsidies.

I thank the President for upholding our trade laws, despite intense opposition from abroad. His decision was the correct one. Thank you, Mr. President, stay the course. Your plan is benefiting my district and the nation's steel industry.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2003

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, March 4, 2003, I was unable to cast my floor

vote on rollcall numbers 40, 41 and 42. The votes I missed include rollcall vote 40 on Suspending the Rules and Agreeing to H. Res. 106, Congratulating Lutheran Schools; rollcall vote 41 on Suspending the Rules and Agreeing to H. Con. Res. 54, Expressing support of National Visiting Nurse Association Week; and rollcall vote 42 on Suspending the Rules and Agreeing to H. Res. 111, Honoring the Legacy of Fred Rogers.

Had I been present for the votes, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall votes 40, 41 and 42.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
CORWIN M. NIXON ON HIS 90TH
BIRTHDAY

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2003

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding achievements of the Honorable Corwin M. Nixon, a dear friend and distinguished constituent, who will celebrate his 90th birthday on March 9, 2003.

Corwin has served Warren County, Ohio, and the State of Ohio with great distinction. From 1948 to 1960, he served as a Warren County Commissioner. Shortly thereafter, Corwin was elected to the Ohio General Assembly as a State Representative, where he served for 30 years from 1962 to 1992. He had the distinction of being minority leader of the Ohio House of Representatives during his last 14 years in office.

Throughout his successful public service career, Corwin Nixon was always a true gentleman who worked well with his colleagues on both sides of the aisle. Corwin also cared deeply about his constituents. He has told me he "used to mail get-well cards to everyone who got sick." Corwin once was shown four get-well cards that were kept on a constituent's mantel, one for each time this person had been in the hospital. He has also told me of his habit of sending a congratulatory note with a \$1 bill enclosed to newborns, and how to this day these lucky recipients of his thoughtfulness come up to him to thank him.

Corwin has been extremely active in a number of good causes and organizations locally, statewide, and nationally. He is President of the U.S. Trotting Association, where he has been a member for 16 years. For 34 years, he has been an original member of the American Horse Council. Corwin also serves on a number of boards, including the Grandview Hospital, Bethesda Hospital, and Big Brothers and Sisters. Among other activities, Corwin has managed the well-known Lebanon Raceway for 50 years.

Family has always been important to Corwin. He and his wife, Eleanor, were married for 45 years before she passed away. They have two children, Keith and Karen (twins), and three grandchildren, Melissa (Missy), Tina, and Keith Jr. They also have four great grandchildren, Corwin Keith III, Eleanor, Preston, and Austin.

Mr. Speaker, Corwin Nixon is a remarkable person who has touched so many lives and has given so much to our community, our state, and our nation over many years. I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing his